

Patients' perspectives on antenatal group consultations

Identifying communicative strengths and weaknesses

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Abstract

- The doctor-patient dyad: main paradigmatic relationship in health communication
- With new technologies, other constellations are enabled, such as patient-patient communication in group consultations
- This poster investigates pregnant women's perceptions of group consultations in order to identify its communicative strengths and weaknesses from the perspective of patients

Background

Group consultations are increasingly being integrated as a format of communication in healthcare settings. They have been associated with:

- economic benefits for healthcare institutions (Weinger, 2003)
- greater time and efficiency for healthcare professionals and patients (McDonald et al., 2014)
- improved health outcomes for patients (e.g. Ickovics et al., 2007; Trotter, 2013; Weinger, 2003)

Setting



- In Denmark, group consultations have been available as an alternative to individual midwife consultations in Aarhus since 2014.
- However, little is known about how pregnant women in the Danish context perceive the benefits and disadvantages of group consultations. Our qualitative study intends to make inroads into that gap.

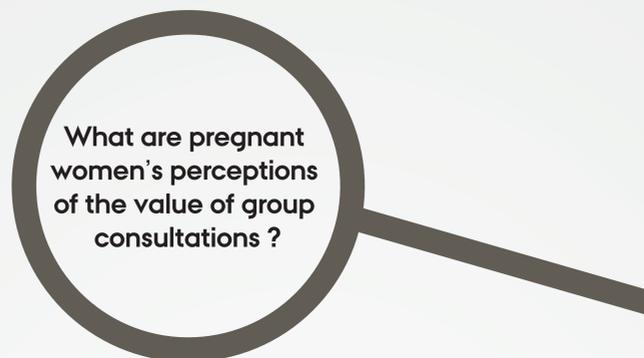
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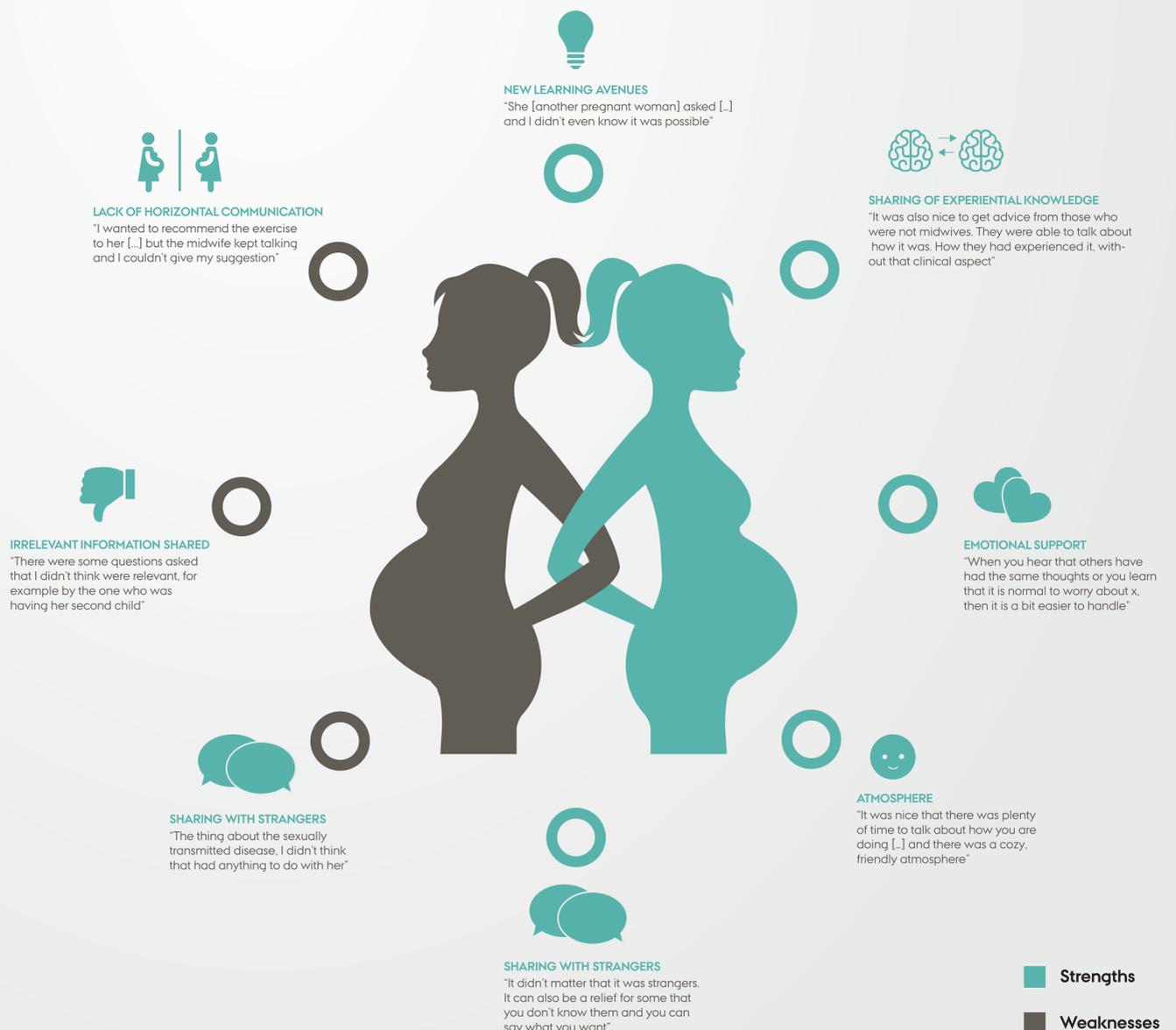
Research question



Method



Results



Conclusions

- Interviewees were overwhelmingly positive, particularly with regard to the opportunities for:
 - learning
 - normalizing the pregnancy experience
 - emotional support
- Our study indicates the value of this communicative format in antenatal care for pregnant women, suggesting that it could be adopted in antenatal healthcare provision in other countries.
- However, to maximize the benefits of group consultations, healthcare practitioners should be trained in how to manage them.
- More studies are needed to investigate the value of group consultations for other patient groups.

Literature

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